[English]

Indian Citizens In Bangladesh

3978. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the matter in respect of allowing the Indian citizens living in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh to cast their votes is Pending with the Government;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) : There are 119 exchangeable enclaves in Bangladesh and 72 Bangladesh enclaves in India. As stipulated under the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, the enclaves are to be exchanged between India and Bangladesh, without any claim of compensation. Neither side has been able to exercise control over its enclaves which are located in the other country. Exchange of enclaves has legal and constitutional implication which is linked with other outstanding issues pertaining to the 1974 Agreement such as transfer of adverse possessions, demarcation of boundary and ratification of the Agreement. The related issue of citizenship of the inhabitants of the enclaves has also to be decided. The Government has no administrative control or access to the enclaves lying within Bangladesh and hence extension of voting rights to the inhabitants has not been possible.

Performance of Foreign Aided Projects

3979. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints/reports against certain States in regard to the unutilisation/misutilisation of funds provided by the World Bank and other foreign agencies for various forestry projects and the dissatisfactory performance of such projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any effective machinery to oversee the performance of such projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to set up an effective machanism in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). The overall progress under the on-going externally aided forestry projects funded by the World Bank, Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), Overseas Economic Cooperation fund (OECF), Japan, Overseas Development Administration (ODA), (UK), Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and European Economic Community (EEC) has been quite satisfactory.

The projects are monitored and reviewed periodically through Quarterly Progress Reports and regular review mission of the donor agencies. In addition to this the progress of the projects are monitored in the Ministry through de-briefing meetings with donor agencies mission and officials of the concerned State Governments. To utilise the whole external assistance the extension of the project are sought from time to time.

[Translation]

Harassment to Passengers

3980. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passengers travelling by second class on the long distance trains are harassed by the daily passengers holding seasonal tickets; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some cases have come to notice.

(b) Apart from taking follow up action on specific complaints, surprise checks are organised frequently by Commercial and Vigilance Departments in close concert with RPF and GRP to apprehend persons travelling without proper authority. Action is taken against such people under provisions of Railways Act. Ticket checking activities are intensified in trains and sections which are found to be vulnerable.

Reservation Quota

3981. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the stoppage of August Kranti train at Valsad Station, tickets for Valsad are not sold for this train;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reserve a quota of berths for Valsad in this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The tickets at Valsad station are not being issued by August Kranti Rajdhani Express trains as no quota has been allotted at this station by this train. Instructions have now been issued to Northern and Western Railways to allot a reservation quota of 2 berths each in AC 2-tier and AC 3-tier and 4 seats in AC Chair Car at Valsad by 2953/2954 Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central August Kranti Rajdhani Express from the earliest possible date.

Fishing Harbours

3982. SHRI N.J. RATHVA :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :